UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 8, 2022

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Chris Jahn
President and CEO
American Chemistry Council
700 Second Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Jahn,

Thank you for your interest in EPA's draft IRIS formaldehyde assessment and the link to the publicly available scientific studies supported by the American Chemistry Council (ACC). EPA is committed to maintaining scientific integrity and improving science-based decision making. Since the 2011 National Research Council (NRC) review of the 2010 draft IRIS assessment of formaldehyde, the IRIS Program has modernized and advanced systematic review, including evidence integration, across its assessment products. EPA's current (2022) draft formaldehyde assessment was developed *de novo* to be fully responsive to the recommendations in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) reports[1]. The systematic review methods used in the current draft IRIS formaldehyde assessment formed the basis for the methods presented in the IRIS Handbook, which was favorably reviewed by the NASEM in November 2021[2]. Further, NASEM indicated "The methods for developing IRIS assessments can serve as a model for other EPA programs that are implementing systematic review methods." The 2022 draft IRIS formaldehyde assessment will be released for public comment prior to external peer review.

Again, thank you for your interest in EPA's IRIS Program and its assessment of formaldehyde. If you have any additional questions, please contact Dr. Kris Thayer, Director of the Chemical and Pollutant Assessment Division (CPAD), at Thayer.Kris@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Maureen R. Gwinn, Ph.D
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development

[1] 2011 Formaldehyde Report; 2014 Review of IRIS Processes; 2018 Review of IRIS Program Procedures

[2] 2021 Review of IRIS Handbook